

HOWNIIKAN

PEOPLE OF THE FIRE

Vol. 20, No. 3

Citizen Potawatomi Nation

March 1998



County Commissioner Jerry Richards, Chairman Barrett, Sen. Kelly Haney, Rep. Bob Weaver, County Commissioner Bob Guinn, Deputy Administrator Bob Trousdale, And Tribal Roads Director Lisa Kraft Cut Ribbon On Hardesty Road Improvements

Tribe helps fund million dollar road project

Motorists are enjoying a newly four-laned and upgraded section of Hardesty Road, which runs east-west through the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, thanks to the Nation's financial assistance.

Sen. E. Kelly Haney (Dem.-Seminole), Rep. Bob Weaver (Dem.-Shawnee), Pottawatomie County Commissioners Bob Guinn and Jerry Richards, Potawatomi Chairman John A. "Rocky" Barrett Jr., Tribal Deputy Administrator Bob Trousdale, and Tribal Roads Director Lisa Kraft cut a ribbon

on the project under rainy skies on March 27.

The Nation put \$836,000 into the \$1 million project. "We are very pleased to have been able to cooperate with the Pottawatomie County government on a project that improves the quality of life for all who live in the area," Chairman Barrett said. "It's this type of partnership between tribal governments and other governments in their areas that will make Oklahoma stronger for all of her citizens."

"Without the Potawatomi

Nation's contribution, we would not have been able to do the project," Commissioner Guinn said. "We did not have enough for this extensive a project."

Guinn added: "We have not finished paying for the project. But, it appears that the Pottawatomie County portion of the cost will be close to \$200,000." That money will come from the county government's road funds allocation from the state.

The one million dollars paid for widening a four-mile section

of Hardesty Road, from Brangus Road (NS 344) to State Highway 9A. There is a new 54-foot-long bridge included in the project.

According to Commissioner Richards, final inspection of the project was accomplished two weeks before the ribbon cutting, which occurred at the intersection of Hardesty and Brangus Roads.

The project is finished, except for some grading and drainage work and some seeding and sodding delayed because of rainy weather.

Potawatomis add skill, experience at symposium

By MICHAEL DODSON

CPN DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

(Norman, OK) – The issues were large and the interest was high as the Association of American Indian Law Review Editors (AAILRE) held its 25th Anniversary Celebration and Indian Law and Policy Symposium.

Two members of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation contributed significantly to making the Saturday, March 21, event successful. Comments from John A. "Rocky" Barrett, Jr., Chairman, were the highlight of a panel discussion on "Sovereignty and Corruption in Tribal Government."

Menus prepared by Loretta Barrett Oden, Corn Dance Café owner and operator, turned what might have been a typical, bland "meeting meal" into a fine dining experience.

Opening his panel presentation, Chairman Barrett defined sovereignty: "In a lot of ways, tribal sovereignty is like virtue. It's a way of behaving. It's a state of mind. It's a manner of demonstrating responsible behavior by a tribal government, to the party that counts the most – the tribal constituency."

"As long as we persevere in behaving as sovereigns, sovereignty will not go away," Barrett

Please turn to page 6

INSIDE:

Letters Page 3

Gene Bruno Profile Page 5

South Texas Regional Council Page 8

CITIZEN POTAWATOMI NATION • 1901 GORDON COOPER DRIVE • SHAWNEE, OK 74801 • 1-800-880-9880 • 275-3121 • WWW.POTAWATOMI.ORG

Bulk Rate
U.S. Postage
PAID
Tecumseh, OK.
Permit No. 26

TRIBAL TRACTS

Walking on

George Earl Haas

George Earl Haas, a resident of Konawa, died March 7, 1998, in Shawnee at the age of 71.

Services were held Tuesday, March 10, at the Pickard Chapel in Konawa. Officiating were Rev. Berton Perry assisted by Rev. Wade Jernigan and Rev. Bill Bratcher. Burial was at Vista Cemetery.



Mr. Haas was born August 5, 1926, in Konawa to Dovie Lee (Kelly) and George Earl Haas Sr. He was married to Beatrice (Guinn) Haas at Shawnee on October 27, 1945. He attended Cooper, Konawa and Asher Schools. He lived in the Konawa area until 1945, when he moved to Shawnee and lived there until 1981. He then returned to Konawa.

He was a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation. He worked at the Shawnee Garment Factory for 21 years and retired in 1986 from Tinker Air Force Base as a jet engine mechanic after 21 years. He was a member of the Free Will Baptist Church and was an ordained deacon of that church since 1956. He was also a 32nd Degree Mason.

He was preceded in death by his par-

ents, Dovie and George Haas Sr. and one sister, Ruth Etheridge.

Survivors include his wife, Beatrice Guinn Haas of Konawa; one son and daughter-in-law, Harold George and Connie Lou Haas of Oklahoma City; one daughter and son-in-law, Connie Lee and Quintin Kay of Konawa; three grandsons, Scott Haas and wife Amy, and Randy Haas and wife Charlse, both of Oklahoma City, and Jake Kay of Konawa; two granddaughters, Toni and Jami Kay, both of Konawa; one great-grandson, Ryan Austin Haas of Oklahoma City; one sister and brother-in-law, Mary Lou and Jim McCuiston of Warr Acres; and two brothers and sisters-in-law, Bill and Nancy Haas of Garland, TX, and Jim "Benny" and June Haas of Waldron, Arkansas; and a host of friends, nieces and nephews.

David Ervin Baysinger

David Ervin Baysinger, 41, died Monday, Feb. 23, 1998.

Mr. Baysinger was born May 20, 1956 in Blythe. He attended schools in Banning and Oregon. He served in the U.S. Army and worked locally as a flagger, a cook and taxi driver.

He is survived by his father and step-mother, Herman and Sandra Baysinger of Cabazon; his wife Gloria of Ripley; daughters Dawn Simpson of Ripley and Jennifer Baldo of Phoenix, Ariz; sister, Shirley Houston of Roseville; brothers, Ronald and Jeffrey, both of Oregon; two step-brothers, Louis and Harvey Meade of

Cabazon; step-sister, Tammie Pigman of Cabazon. He was preceded in death by his mother, Lorene, in 1977.

Visitation was held Thursday, Feb. 26, at Frye Chapel. Funeral services were held Feb. 27 at 2 pm at Frye Chapel. Pastor Rick Wiles of the First Southern Baptist Church officiated.

Interment followed at Palo Verde Cemetery.

William T. "Bill" Frapp

William T. "Bill" Frapp, 77, of Glenwood, Arkansas, died Monday, March 9, 1998, at his home after a long illness.

He was born April 4, 1920, in Lexington, Oklahoma, to John Samual and Edna Alice (Hitt) Frapp. A tribal member, he was a retired contractor and construction worker.

He was preceded in death by his grandparents T.T. Hitt, Melinda Hitt, William Frapp and Menerva Shields; his parents; three brothers, Gordon E. Frapp, Murray S. Frapp and Donnie D. Frapp; one sister, Vonnelle Frapp Ward; a daughter, Pearlina McSparrin; two nephews, Skipper Stover and Herbert Stover; and many aunts and uncles.

He is survived by his wife Delma Frapp of the home; his son and daughter-in-law, Billy and Carolyn Frapp of Phoenix, Arizona; his daughter and son-in-law, Debbie and Harold Bloye of Norman, Oklahoma; six grandchildren, Dale Wade, Glenn Wade, Linda Wade, Elizabeth A. Frapp, Brenda A. Frapp and Crystal Gayle Frapp; 32 great-grandchildren; 11 nieces; eight

nephews; and many great-nieces and nephews, cousins and friends.

Graveside services were held March 11 in Glenwood Cemetery.

William F. "Bill" Mulanax

William F. "Bill" Mulanax, 66, Silver Lake, Kansas, died Saturday, Feb. 21, 1998, at a hospital in Topeka.

He was born Aug. 24, 1931, in Mayetta, the son of Lewis J. and Eunice Levier Mulanax, and attended rural school in Jackson County. He lived in Topeka many years and in Silver Lake the past five years. He worked for Adams Business Forms 40 years before he retired in 1993.

He was member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation and Our Lady of the Snows Catholic Church west of Mayetta.

He married Mary K. Fitzgerald on Sept. 26, 1953, in Topeka. She survives. A son, Larry Eugene Mulanax, died April 16, 1981.

Other survivors include sons, Stephen Leo Mulanax, McFarland; Martin Duane "Bud" Mulanax, Hoyt; and Ronald Edward Mulanax, Grantville; daughters, Sharon M. Latino, Eaton, Ohio, and Darlene L. Irvin, Topeka; brothers, James M. Mulanax and Irvan J. Mulanax, both in Topeka, and Kenneth L. Mulanax, Delia; 13 grandchildren; five step-grandchildren; and three great-grandchildren.

Mass of Christian burial was held at Our Lady of the Snows Catholic Church Hall west of Mayetta. Burial was in Ship Shee Cemetery west of Mayetta. Memorial contributions may be made to the Center for Basic Cancer Research at Kansas State University in Manhattan, 66506.

HOWNIKAN

PEOPLE OF THE FIRE

The HowNiKan is published by the Business Committee of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation with offices at 1901 Gordon Cooper Drive, Shawnee, Oklahoma 74801.

The HowNiKan is mailed free to enrolled tribal members. Subscriptions to non-members are available for \$10 annually in the United States and \$12 for foreign countries.

The HowNiKan is a member of the Native American Journalists Association. Reprint permission is granted with publication credit to the HowNiKan and the Citizen Potawatomi Nation.

All letters and submissions become the property of the HowNiKan. Editorials and letters are subject to editing and must contain a traceable address. Final selection of material for publication is subject to approval by the Business Committee.

All correspondence should be directed to HowNiKan, 1901 Gordon Cooper Drive, Shawnee, Ok. 74801. Address changes should be sent to Potawatomi Tribal Rolls, 1901 Gordon Cooper Drive, Shawnee, Ok. 74801.

Citizen Potawatomi Nation Business Committee
Chairman - John A. "Rocky" Barrett Jr.
Vice Chairman - Linda Capps
Sec./Treasurer - Gene Bruno
Committeeman - Hilton Melot
Committeeman - Jerry P. Motley

Toll-Free Number: 1-800-880-9880
<http://www.potawatomi.org>

THOUGHT FOR TODAY

Provided by Steve Kime, tribal member and professional speaker from Tulsa, Oklahoma

I read a story recently that referred to life's experiences as threads that are woven into the fabric called life. The story tells of how an apprentice and master craftsman work together weaving threads into the fabric making a rug. The apprentice and master craftsman weave the thread into a magnificent design. If the apprentice pushes through the wrong color thread, the experienced master craftsman simply weaves the wrong thread into the fabric and blends it into the pattern. Upon close observation you would never notice the mistake.

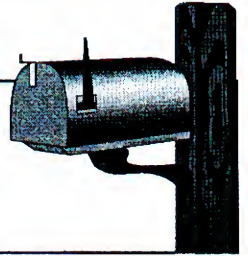
In 1998, we may be given some threads of life that may be difficult to use or understand. Like the master craftsman, just weave those threads into your daily life, as you design your unique pattern and purpose here on earth.

And remember, to have a friend is to be one!

TRIBAL ELECTION NOTICE

The annual tribal referendum and election will be held on June 27, 1998. Voting will be at the tribal complex the day of the election from 7 a.m. until 2 p.m. Requests to vote an absentee ballot must be made by June 7, 1998. Requests for absentee ballots must be in writing and include the correct mailing address, roll number and legal signature of the person making the request.

A referendum budget to determine expenditures of accumulated interest from set aside funds, as well as the election of tribal officials, will be on the ballot. Requests for tribal election ballots should be mailed to: Potawatomi Election Committee, P.O. Box 310, Tecumseh, OK 74873.



From Our Mailbox

Harvard law student recounts changes in awareness

Bourzho NiKan:

I am a member of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation and in my third and final year at Harvard Law School. I am writing simply to tell you, my tribal community, about my law school experience.

When I arrived at Harvard in Fall 1995, I was one of two entering Native students. Both of us eagerly joined the NALSA (Native American Law Students Association), bringing the total membership to three active members. Though we were discouraged by the sheer absence of an Indian presence at Harvard Law School, we were encouraged and received a great deal of support from the Harvard Native American Program, which supports over 100 Native students university-wide, including Native students from Harvard College and all of the graduate programs.

Immediately we began working on what we perceived to be the biggest problem facing Indians at the Law School — the absence of a course in Federal Indian Law. We began meeting with the Dean of the law school (Dean Clark) who offered reluctant support, but agreed to look into the matter. We pooled efforts and compiled a list of

scholars and professors of American Indian Law whom we felt would be appealing to the law school as potential candidates to teach the course in our second year. We were thrilled to take Federal Indian Law in a full semester course in fall of 1996 with Professor Phillip Frickey, a leading non-Indian professor of Indian Law.

Though we were pleased with the results of our efforts, we felt it crucial that we continue to advocate on behalf of NALSA for (1) the position to be filled by a professor who would be eligible for tenure consideration, so that the gap in Indian Law would not occur again at Harvard, and (2) that the position be filled by a Native professor with actual experience in dealing with tribes and Indian communities. Once again, we began meeting with Dean Clark with lists of Native professors on whose behalf we advocated to teach Indian Law or related courses at the law school.

In 1997-98 two candidates from our list were hired. In the 1997-98 winter term Professor Jim Anaya (Mescalero Apache) taught Indigenous Peoples in International Law, and Professor Lorie Graham (Canadian Blackfoot) is currently teaching Federal Indian Law in a full semester spring course. Most

importantly, in our last meeting with Dean Clark, he said that plans were already underway to bring a Native professor in next year to teach Federal Indian Law, and that "in the future" there would be a serious move to put a Native professor on the faculty at the law school.

Efforts to increase awareness of Native issues have continued in my last year. NALSA has established a Harvard Law Indigenous Alumni Association, begun a public interest stipend for Harvard Law students to work in unpaid Indian legal services, and will be holding a conference, Indigenous Communities and Legal Education, during the Pow Wow weekend of May 1-2, 1998.

The purpose of this letter is not, in any way, to credit myself for NALSA with changes that have taken place at Harvard Law School. In a school with such a complex bureaucracy, driven by political and financial motivations, it really was not within the power of NALSA to single-handedly spur the changes that occurred. On the contrary, my hope is that this open letter simply informs our Nation of how behind-the-times major institutions are in promoting education and awareness of legal

issues facing Indian peoples. But more importantly, I hope that this letter demonstrates, at least to some degree, that even in the oldest, least flexible institutions change is possible, though slow in coming.

I have spent a great deal of my law school career working to strengthen the Indian community at Harvard Law School, and to make the school more accessible and appealing to Indian applicants. I have done so for this reason — I do believe that increasing the number of Indian lawyers in the national legal community can help to bring Indian perspectives and issues to the forefront. In doing so, perhaps there will be a greater understanding of the Indian World View in legal issues, and a larger, cohesive group of lawyers advocating for the rights of Indian peoples.

I will be graduating from Harvard Law School in June of 1998. I am happy to talk with anyone who might have questions regarding the law school application process. Information regarding how to contact me is on file with the HowNiKan.

Megwetch,

Angela R. Riley
Somerville, MA

Tribal member recalls last year's pow-wow, appreciates leadership

To The Editor:

Enclosed are three enrollment applications and birth certificates for my three precious grandsons, Cole Daniel Clementson, Jace Matthew Clementson and Lucas Bryce Clementson. They were all born in Norfolk, Virginia, where they have a different arrangement on counties and cities — you are either born and live in the city OR in the county, in which case my grandsons were born in the city of Norfolk.

I want to say that it's an honor and a privilege to be allowed to enroll the boys in the Citizen Potawatomi Nation as it was to enroll my own 3 children (actually I was only able to get my son, Kirk, and daughter, Julie, enrolled at that time because the Rolls had been closed to new enrollments just a few days prior to my daughter Holly's birthday of 4/22/64 and she enrolled herself several years later after the Rolls had been again opened up) and to have been enrolled myself and on back with my mother and ancestors.

We have always been so proud of our Indian heritage and are so excited to have this opportunity and privilege for

our grandsons. My sister Kay (Fisher) and I were born in Wanette, OK, where our grandfather, Dr. J.H. Royster, was a doctor for many of years and delivered many babies around the area. Our grandmother was Mary J. LaReau Royster, daughter of Mary Anastasia Higbee LaReau, daughter of Julia Justine Bertrand Higbee.

My husband, Travis, and I had the joy and delight of coming to the Pow Wow in Shawnee last year beginning our vacation. We were thrilled to watch and hear the wonderful drums and dancing, I was privileged to vote, we attended the Tribal Council Meeting and enjoyed it and the lovely refreshments and met many of our tribal leaders and regional directors, Philonise Williams, Lu and John Ellis, Marj Hobdy, and fun family member, Penny Bishop from Colorado.

And what a joy to attend the Sunday morning church service to honor, sing and worship our Lord Jesus together with Norman Kiker and many of our Potawatomi "family members." We had fun purchasing gifts at the gift shop and visiting with other folks we met. Our

only regret was it was too short (and we were unable to get there in time for the Friday events and especially the Potawatomi Night) and had to leave to dash on out to Chesapeake, Virginia, to visit our daughter, Julie and husband, Rob, and 3 beloved grandsons before having to return to Midland, Texas, and back to work.

The other thing my husband and I want to say is how much we admire and appreciate Chairman Barrett and how blessed and grateful we are for his wise leadership, for his staff, and for Linda Capps, Gene Bruno, Jerry Motley and others. We also especially thank Esther Lowden who took my beaded necklace my husband had previously purchased for me at the gift shop that had broken, and had it repaired and mailed back to us so quickly.

We are planning a family reunion in Shawnee at the upcoming Pow Wow in June 27-28, my two sisters and brother and some of their children and grandchildren and some of our own children and grandchildren including our daughter and family all the way from Chesapeake, VA, and we are ALL so

excited about coming to share in the wonderful excitement and deep joy that is our Potawatomi family heritage!

We thank you all for the wonderful HowNiKan, thank you for everything you do for all of us, and most of all, we thank our Heavenly Father for His loving kindness, tender mercies, grace and delights he bestows on us, in Jesus' Name. Megwetch!

BAMA MINE!

Judith Ann (Judy) Friend
Midland, TX 79708

And a thank you for new eyeglasses

Dear How Ni Kan,

I would like to thank you so very much for the check, enabling me to get new glasses. It had been 4 years since I had new lenses!

Thank you so very much!

Sincerely,

Minnie Irene (Arnold) Bosworth
Nevada, Ohio

TRIBAL TRACTS

Tribal member training for national gymnastics meet

Beggs, Oklahoma High School sophomore Mace Patterson is training daily as he pursues his goal of qualifying for the Junior National Gymnastics team (Classes 1 and 2, for gymnasts who are 16-to-18 years old).

Mace and his father Doyle are members of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, as are grandparents Sue and L.D. Patterson. He is a descendant of William Henry Peltier. His mother is Terri Patterson.

Mace is in the midst of running a gauntlet of gymnastics events in pursuit of his goal. These include: the Bart Conner Invitational in Norman, OK (which was contested in February); the Phillips Invitational in Bartlesville, OK (in March); the State Gymnastics Meet (April 18th); and the Nationals in Battle Creek, Michigan (May 16).

At the Phillips Invitational in Bartlesville, Mace placed third overall with a score of 41.7. He placed second on the rings. He was third on the parallel bars and pommel horse and fourth in rings and floor exercise.

Mace explains that "in the Nationals is where you see how good you are. There will be about 300 competitors and you have to place in the top 12 at the Nationals to move on to the USA Championships."

Where a gymnast places in the USA Championships determines who is selected to compete on the Junior National Team. The Senior National Team (for gymnasts 19-and-older) is the feeder for Team USA gymnasts, who compete internationally.

Meanwhile, Mace's other goals include a responsible eye toward his academic education. Mace is an A's-and-B's student; he is on the Principal's Honor Roll at Beggs High School. "I want to get a scholarship if I'm good enough. I'd kinda like to go to OU because there's a good gymnastics team there. I'd also like to be able to stay in my hometown (area) and train for the Olympics and international competition."

How good is Mace? As a gymnast competing with a team from Action Gymnastics



Mace shows his style in a recent competition

Academy in Tulsa, Mace placed 3rd overall and 3rd in every event in December 1997 at the Norman Invitational. Last year, Mace was the All-Around State Champion. He won Gold Medals in the high bar, parallel bars, floor exercise, and all-around, plus he won the rings. He placed 5th in the pommel horse.

In the Regionals last year, Mace placed 4th overall, with a Gold Medal in the high bar. He placed 4th on the parallel bars and eighth in both the vault and the floor exercise.

Last year, Mace competed in Class 4 (which does not go to the Nationals Competition). This year, he is competing in Class 2, which does go to the Nationals. There are classes three, two, one, and Elites, which go to the Nationals. Skills, age, and coaches' decisions determine the level at which a gymnast competes.

On his way to the Nationals, Mace must score 36 points in the state meet to advance to the Regionals. In the Regionals (competing against gymnasts from Oklahoma, Missouri, Kansas, Texas, Arkansas, and Louisiana), Mace would have to score 43 points to advance to the Nationals.

Meanwhile, Mace is training

weighs 125 pounds. "When I was a little kid," explains Mace, "I did back flips and stuff. I had a trampoline when I was young and did back handsprings on the ground. My grandpa Patterson told me to get into it (gymnastics) before my talent wasted away. It's still fun to do even though I have to work hard at it every day."

Mace has a twin brother, Ace, and a 17-year-old sister, Destiny. Ace plays football; Destiny is a cheerleader and works at the Beggs Drive-in.

Making it possible for Mace to pursue his dream has been a challenging endeavor for the Patterson family. Adding to the expenses of raising three teenagers, the Pattersons had to drive to Tulsa twice daily, until Mace turned 16 last month. Now Mace can drive himself.

Expenses include \$60 a week for gasoline and turnpike passes plus the costs of uniforms and the gloves and grips for high bar and rings. When he travels to competitions, there are motel expenses and bus fares. Mace will have to fly to New Orleans and Battle Creek to compete in the Regionals and Nationals. He works and helps to pay his own way.

Mace's training fees cost \$140 per month at Action Gymnastics. Many times, he will compete in two meets per month at a cost of \$45-to-\$70 for the entry fees. Added to all this, Mace has to eat just like any other growing teenager.

Doyle Patterson is a principal at Beggs High School; Terri Patterson is a home care LPN at Supra in Okmulgee. His parents also have a distributorship for a nutrition product to help with family expenses.

"Most of the gymnasts Mace is in competition with are wealthy kids," says Terri Patterson. "It would help us out a lot if we could find a sponsor to help finance Mace's travel expenses and entry fees. We just trust the Lord and everyone in the family pitches in to help Mace pursue his dream."

"I'm proud of how Mace has been in competition for one year and being State Champion," says Doyle Patterson. "I'm proud of his Christian attitude and the way he carries himself. In fact, I'm proud of all my kids."

How committed is Mace as a gymnast competing with others across the country who have the same dreams and goals? "Don't tell him he can't do anything," says his mother, "because he will do it or die trying. When he was two years old, my husband was coaching football. Mace saw the football players jumping rope and he about drove me crazy until he learned how to jump rope like the football players."

Then there was the time that Mace decided to take up juggling. "I would come home and find potatoes all over the floor," his mother recalls. "He finally mastered the juggling skill as well."

HowNiKan DEADLINES/ADVERTISING RATES

The deadline for political advertising in The HowNiKan is the 5th of the month. Rates for political ads are listed below. Each candidate is offered a free quarter-page ad in the April issue as provided for in the tribal election ordinance. All other political ads must be paid for by the person or persons placing the ad. Payment must be made to the tribal Director of Accounting before the ad can be printed. The editor of The HowNiKan, under the election ordinance, shall have final approval on contents of free and paid advertisements and shall review the contents for libel, slander and accuracy of facts with the tribal attorney.

Political Advertising Rates:

Full Page - \$100; Half Page - \$50; Quarter Page - \$25

Deadline: 5th of the month for that month's issue

TRIBAL TRACTS

Bruno blazes successful path in medical supplies business

By MICHAEL DODSON

CPN DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

The plaques displayed on the wall leading to his office are testimony to the fact that Gene Bruno and his partner, Tom Andrews, had achieved business success as employees — sales professionals — for a large company. However, in the mid-'80s, Bruno, who is now Citizen Potawatomi Nation Secretary-Treasurer, and Andrews dreamed of more.

The pair wanted to control their own destinies. In 1987, Bruno formed ALKO Enterprises, a medical supplies distributor. "We started out with nothing. In fact, we began operations two months before we got our Bureau of Indian Affairs loan (for capitalization)."

That first year for Alko was a struggle, according to Bruno. "We were out here in suits, unloading trucks and shipping merchandise. Our wives were both working, so it was really a family operation."

After the initial year, sales perked up. "We were able to hire a few people, got the business going, and it started to smooth out," Bruno told the *HowNiKan*.

The plan behind ALKO's founding was to sell to the Indian Health Service. "But, as every Indian entrepreneur knows, that doesn't happen that easily," Bruno pointed out. "Thank heavens, we were able to generate enough other business to cover us until we were able to begin selling to IHS."

As for ALKO's product lines, Bruno said, "We provide just about everything that goes into a hospital except pharmaceuticals — dressings, needles, syringes,



Bruno in his Oklahoma City office at ALKO Enterprises

wheelchairs, beds, drain bags."

ALKO sells to customers across the United States. "We now sell a lot to the Indian Health Service," Bruno explained. "We also do business with the defense logistics agency and the Veterans Administration. Our biggest customer is the State of Oklahoma."

Several for-profit hospitals also buy

their supplies from ALKO. Shawnee Regional Hospital is one of the company's major accounts.

ALKO employs nine people in its northwest Oklahoma City home office. There are five ALKO employees in an Okmulgee office opened in 1997. A Houston, Texas office has ten employees.

Bruno's message to Native Americans who have considered opening their own businesses: "Don't be afraid of it. Just go ahead and do it. There's a lot of help available; seek that help out."

As Citizen Potawatomi Nation Secretary-Treasurer, Bruno oversees all of the tribe's finances. He keeps a watchful eye on invested tribal funds and on the progress of the Nation's owned-and-operated enterprises. Bruno was instrumental in the Nation's assuming control of investment of its claims funds.

Under BIA control, the annual return on investment was typically 4 to 5 percent. In the first year of control of its own investments, the Citizen Potawatomi Nation earned a 24.6% return.

Gene Bruno has ties to several of the Citizen Potawatomi Nation's families — the Brunos, Rhodds, and the Vieuxes. "As we say in Potawatomi land, we're all kinfolks and we're all part of a big family," Bruno said.

One of Bruno's great-grandfathers was John Baptiste Bruno. A great-grandmother was a member of the Rhodd family. His grandfather was Joe Bruno. His father was August J. Bruno. A grandmother was a member of the Vieux family.

Bruno and wife Mary Lou have two daughters. Brennan Bruno is a trainer with the U.S. Olympic softball team. Daughter Brooke Muldrow, whose husband's name is also Brook, is a schoolteacher. Brooke's and Brook's 9-month-old son, Cole Montgomery, is Gene's and Mary Lou's first grandchild.

Pe-je-ma

Noble One

*Silently Speaking of the Past
through his sad, almond-shaped
Eyes,
Dark and worn
Aged by the sun, but
burned by the stars*

*As a boy, he broke horses in the
Open Plains
He wrestled out their freedom
and replaced it with ropes and reigns*

*Then, he was the mare
Harnessed and Muzzled*

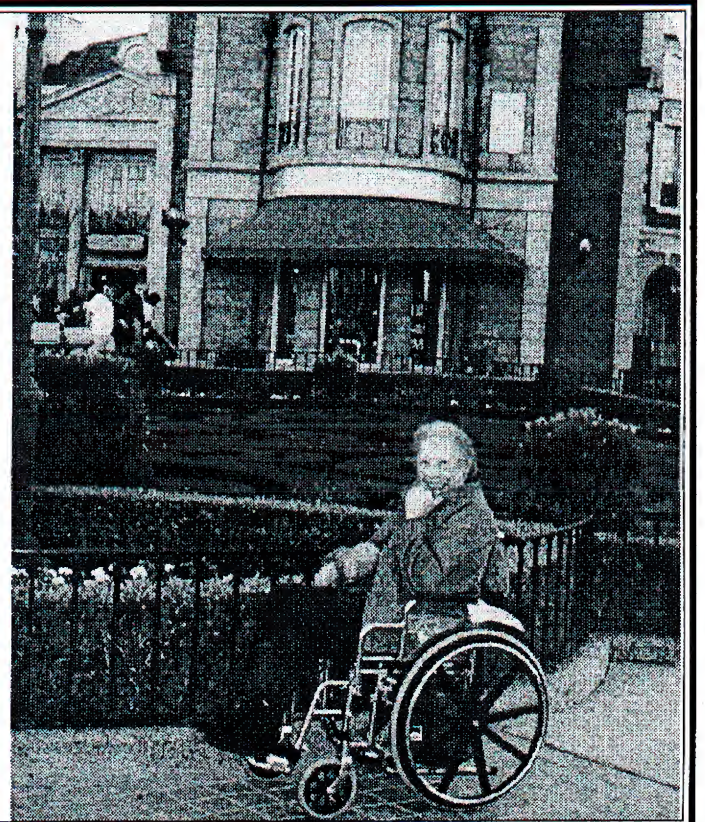
*Uprooted like a wildflower,
Replanted in a row of marigolds*

Anne Slease Moran, Wilmington, Delaware

(Ms. Moran said she composed this poem in 1994 in memory of her deceased grandfather, Citizen Potawatomi member Ben Wano.)

Young At Heart

Edith Rhodd Nave, 84 years young, is an example of the adventurous spirit of the Potawatomi, says her great-granddaughter, Potawatomi Princess Kristy Phillips. Mrs. Nave is pictured at EPCOT Center in Orlando, Florida, where she recently traveled with her daughters, Carole Nave and Arlene Bush. In addition to taking a look at the future there, she rode the roller coaster at Magic Mountain, her first. It was only her second ride in an airplane, the first coming last year during a trip to the state of Washington to visit her daughter. In 1996 during the Potawatomi Pow-Wow, she had a stroke which took her speech, but not her ability to enjoy life. "She taught her family to be proud of our Indian heritage," said Kristy, who calls Mrs. Nave a "Potawatomi treasure."



Tribal chairman, chef add expertise to national symposium

Continued from page 1

said, in holding hope for the future:

As Potawatomi Chairman Barrett sees it, the most important relationship in defining the limits of sovereignty and its application in the real world is the one that exists between tribal governments and state governments.

"What really is the issue here is how we as dependent sovereigns of the U.S. government interrelate with the states. In what has become an adversarial relationship, how do we compete with the states for federal funding? How do we keep the states from encroaching on what we believe are the powers to conduct self-governance activities?"

Barrett acknowledged that tribal governments face disadvantages in these relationships. "Where we can overcome that is through reform of our governments," he advised.

Most Oklahoma tribes' constitutions were provided under the Oklahoma Indian Welfare Act. They are from a template and are very similar. Responding to the thought that these constitutions gave birth to the various tribal nations, Barrett said, "I would venture to say that, at that point, the tribal nation was born with a horrible defect. The only cure for that is to surgically remove that document."

Barrett identified the cookie-cutter Indian constitutions' major weaknesses as combination of the legislative and executive branches of government into a small committee and lack of separation of powers among government branches.

Concentrating decision-making power into an annual meeting of tribal members, especially a meeting with a small quorum needed to take official actions, creates a situation ripe for dispute, according to Chairman Barrett.

"That's a ready-made recipe for instability, for corruption, for all of the governmental problems and sovereignty problems that we all face," he said. Barrett prescribed enfranchising all of the tribal members as an antidote to the instability and infighting.

The Citizen Potawatomi Nation has done that through allowing all tribal members who are registered to cast absentee ballots on issues to be decided at the Nation's annual meeting.

A tribal government's having been stabilized through improving its constitution, the next horizon is exercising governmental powers inherent in sovereign status.

"The only way we're going to exercise power is to maximize our economic advantages," Chairman Barrett said. "Unless we develop ourselves into economic powers within the communities, the counties, the states where we exist, then we're not going to have any sovereignty."

He suggested approaching the likes of U.S. Rep. Ernest Istook, who is a primary congressional foe of tribal sovereignty, with details of the local economic benefits of sovereign Native American nations.

"You approach Rep. Istook with the concept that, if you shut the tribes down in this state, it's the same as shutting down Tinker Air Force Base. If that money for operating our governments goes away, it goes into a big pool on the other side of the Potomac River. Then, the money goes to New York and California. It doesn't come back to Oklahoma."

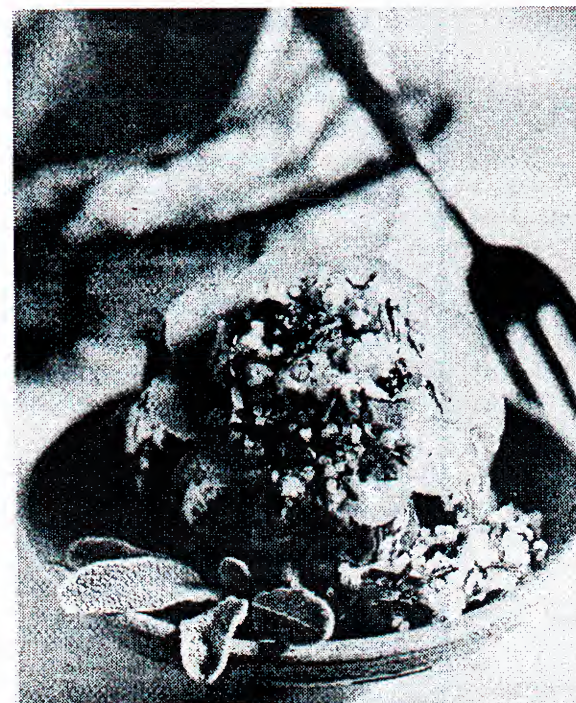
Chairman Barrett also recommended designing tribal constitutions to provide legitimate means for tribal members' removing corrupt elected officials. He cautioned that, in setting up a method for recall, the constitution should protect against the tribal government's being 'lawyer-whipped' by disgruntled tribal members.

"Anyone can sue anyone else over almost any allegation," Barrett pointed out. "Our constitutions need to have safeguards against a tribal treasury's being consumed by lawyer fees, in battling unfounded lawsuits."

Meanwhile, Loretta Barrett Oden's luncheon entrees of turkey shish-ka-bob and roast beef and the amazing Braised Venison main course at the evening banquet inspired praise and gustatory enjoyment. Introduced at the luncheon, she received a very hearty round of applause.



Above: Chef Loretta Barrett Oden prepares to cook up some of her specialties for the Silver Anniversary Sovereignty Symposium hosted by the Association of American Indian Law Review Editors in Norman during March. Barrett Oden's Native American culinary creations have attracted national attention in recent months. Below are two dishes that were featured in Sunset magazine's special Southwest Issue last December as part of a six-page spread with color photographs of Oden and her suggested Native American Christmas Feast. At bottom left is her "Qiunoo and Wild Rice Stuffed Squash," and bottom right is her "Cruised Tenderloin with Chipotle Onions."





Chairman Barrett, third from left, was a key panel participant at the symposium



Gover address symposium

Gover: Late '90s 'a difficult time' for tribal sovereignty'

By MICHAEL DODSON

CPN DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

Norman, OK) – The Assistant Secretary of the Interior for Indian Affairs has celebrated 25 years of advances in the field of Indian law. Kevin Gover, a native Oklahoman who has spent his career practicing Indian law in New Mexico, addressed the Silver Anniversary Sovereignty Symposium hosted by the Association of American Indian Law Review Editors (AAILRE).

Speaking to a packed house at a luncheon, Gover said, "We've come an awful long way, and it's because of programs like this (the American Indian Law Review, which is headquartered on the University of Oklahoma campus).

"More and more, we see that these schools are beginning to teach Indian law as a basic part of the curriculum," Gover said. "Certainly in New Mexico, where we have 22 tribal governments, it's unthinkable that a lawyer would go out into the world to represent clients without at least knowing the basics of Indian law."

Gover called the late 1990s "a very difficult time in Indian law." He added, "We have a (U.S.) Supreme Court that, to my great disappointment, is not showing a great understanding of the role of tribal governments and the needs that they have."

The Bureau of Indian Affairs (BIA) director indicated that a 1980s-era Supreme Court trend, manifested in its opinions in general, has surfaced in the Court's decisions in Indian cases.

"The Court seemed to have lost its ability to take the perspective of the outsider.

More and more, what we saw was the perspective of the insider, the powerful, the affluent, the influential. (The Court did not) have much sympathy for those who are less influential, less wealthy, less powerful.

"What I don't think we expected was to see that some of the new justices would show so very little interest in what the doctrine of tribal sovereignty means, and why it is so necessary," Gover said.

"It's occurred to me over and over that what is absent in the Supreme Court's jurisprudence is an understanding that tribal governments really are intended to be permanent features of the American political-governmental landscape."

Gover told his audience that tribal governments, in protecting sovereignty, should consider alternatives to litigation. "This is not a time to be going to the federal courts for relief," he said. "I also think it's not much of a time, frankly, for progress in Congress."

He did credit Congress, as a whole, with having a higher level of understanding of sovereignty and tribal governments than at any time since the late nineteenth and early twentieth centuries period. "Congress has begun to understand these issues. It's no longer a knee-jerk vote. You can no longer assume that a Democrat is going to vote in favor of tribes any more than you can assume that a Republican is gonna vote against them."

However, according to Gover, "given the leadership that is in place in the U.S. House and Senate, the opportunities for new and aggressive

legislation in support of tribal sovereignty simply aren't there. In fact, we generally find ourselves on the defensive – not a good place to be."

Gover turned to issues pending within the BIA, including a plan to upgrade law enforcement efforts in Indian Country. "When I came into office, there was a live debate as to whether we would keep the law enforcement program within the BIA or transfer it into the Justice Department."

Gover opposes other government agencies' cherry-picking BIA programs, "leaving it weaker and less able to coordinate services that go into the reservation communities." Operating from that philosophical base, he has helped forge a compromise.

The Bureau has made a request for a modest increase of about \$20 million for law enforcement programs for Fiscal Year 1999. But, the real heart of the Indian Country law enforcement improvement initiative will come from the Justice Department.

"Justice has proposed to put something over \$100 million into various programs that it operates (in Indian Country)," Gover explained. "That's a perfectly satisfactory outcome to me."

Gover is also working on improving the Bureau's care for and investment of Indian trust funds, both tribal and individual. "The Bureau lost the trust funds management program because it did such a lousy job of it," Gover acknowledged.

"This year, we are asking for \$10 million dollars additional to upgrade the way we are

managing the individual trust lands. There is a huge number of documents that we must review, catalogue, and put in some electronic format, just to get the system up to where it ought to be by the year 2000. It's a monumental job."

The new BIA head's final initiative is in education. He has spent much time, since taking office in late 1997, talking education with tribal leaders, Indian school boards, and Native American students.

As a result, Gover said, "we are proposing some significant increases (in funding), both in school construction and operating funds and, most important, in school maintenance and repair."

There is an \$850 million backlog in needed repairs for BIA facilities. 85% of those facilities are schools. That is a \$725 million list of needed BIA school repairs.

The BIA received \$34 million for school repairs from the last congressional session. "We have proposed to double the funds that go into maintenance and repair in FY '99 and are looking to future increases in order to eliminate this backlog within the next seven years," Gover said.

During his March 21 Symposium speech, Gover stressed to tribal leaders and others that combating the devastating youth problems of alcohol and drug abuse and teen suicide must come first and foremost in Indian Country. "Nothing else matters until we can find tribal solutions to end these terrible problems. We must provide the leadership and vision to guide Indian youth back to constructive and fulfilling lives."

Indian youth and education constituted the theme of Gover's March 20 visit to the Bureau of Indian Affairs' Riverside Indian School in Anadarko. Gover met with students, aged eight to 17, and toured the Riverside campus with them.

"It's obvious they are fond of their school and its administration," he said. "It speaks volumes for the work that is being done there."

Gover also attended a March 20 Oklahomans for Indian Opportunity (OIO) reception in Norman. His parents, Maggie and Bill Gover, were active members of OIO.

"I was especially impressed with the emphasis OIO placed on our youth themes," said Gover. "We particularly enjoyed the performances given by Indian youth groups that use traditional tribal practices and values in carrying out their pledge to lead drug- and alcohol-free lifestyles."

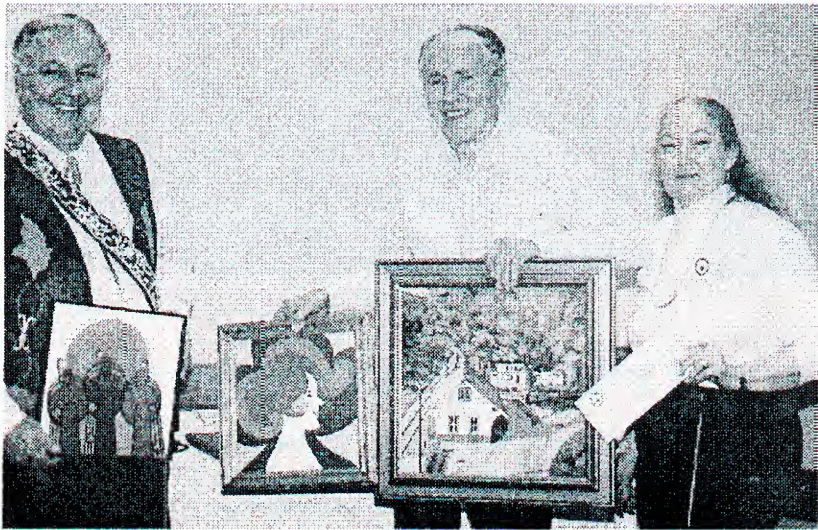
Indian dances and songs were performed by the Comanche Youth Dance Group, the Comanche Nation Pre-School Language Program, and the United National Indian Tribal Youth (UNITY).

In closing his symposium speech, Gover said that being BIA Director, "is fun. It's a lot different than being an attorney. I haven't quite pieced together why that is. But, it has something to do with, as an attorney, having to think through a way to persuade a decision-maker to reach a decision my client likes. Now, I actually get to make the decisions myself. That's a lot of fun!"



**March 7,
1998**

South Texas Region



Chairman Barrett, Left, And Lu Ellis, Right, With Ray Herndon of Bellaire, Winner Of The Regional Art Contest



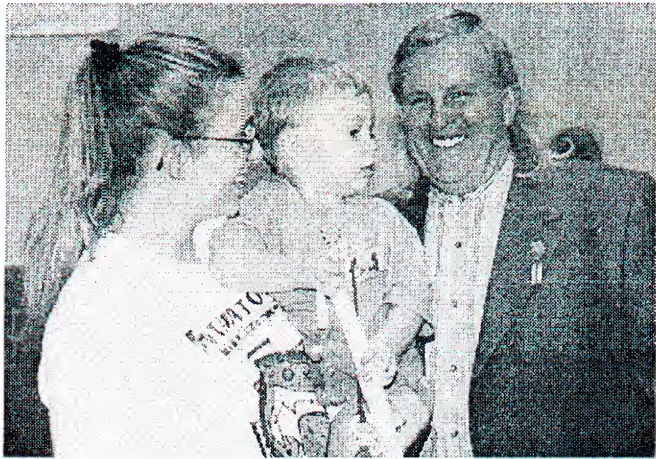
Deborah Scott, Past President Of The Cherokee Cultural Society Of Houston, Discussed Native American Activities In The Houston Area



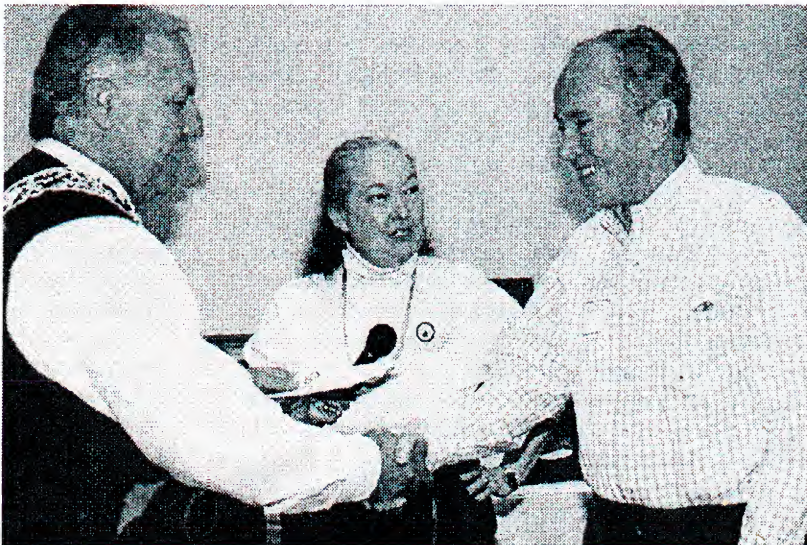
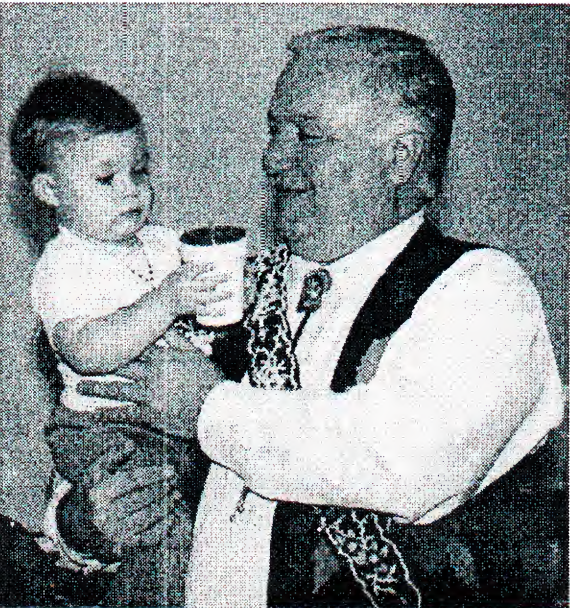
Committeeman J.P. Motley And Regional Director Lu Ellis Share A Hug



Deputy Tribal Administrator Bob Trousdale Addresses The Guests



Committeeman Hilton Melot Visits With 15-Month-Old Kai Webb Of LaPorte, TX, The Youngest Enrolled Member Present, And His Mother Kristi Webb

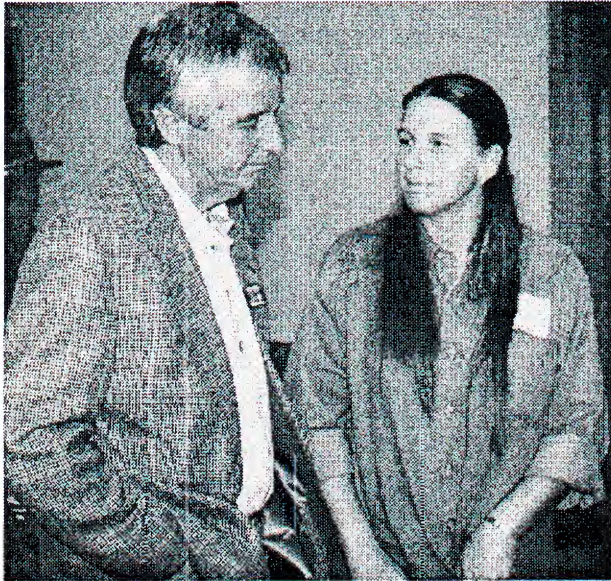


Left: Chairman Barrett Presents Kai Webb, Youngest Enrolled Tribal Member Present, With A Gift. Above: Chairman Barrett And Lu Ellis Greet Ray Herndon. Right: Vice Chairman Capps Reads A Very Interesting Potawatomi Story Written By Lu Ellis (John Ellis Photo).



PHOTOS BY MICHAEL DODSON UNLESS OTHERWISE INDICATED

ral Council Meeting



Secretary-Treasurer Gene Bruno Discusses Genealogy With Michelle Barclay, Who Has Done Much Work In The Field



Their Attire Leaves No Question That Lucille Langenkamp (Left) Of Lake Jackson And Her Sister Dorothy Bryan Of Beeville Are Proud Of Their Texas Heritage. Mrs. Lagenkamp Is Switching Enrollment To The Citizen Potawatomi From The White Earth Ojibwe Nation.



Chairman Barrett Greets Tribal Members At Regional Council (John Ellis Photo)

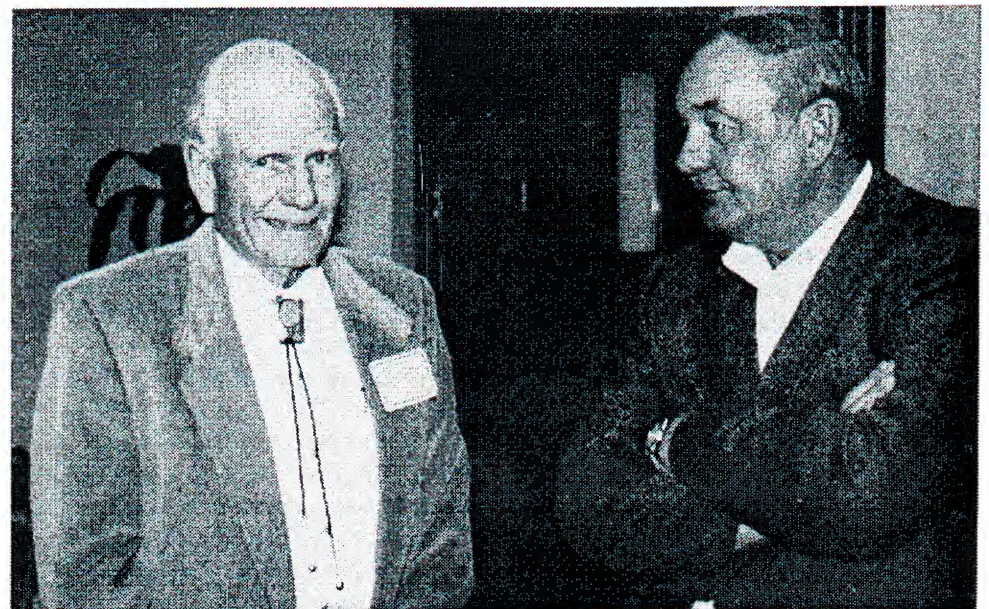
Mary Long, The Wisest Tribal Member Present At Age 92, Visits With Tribal Officials Hilton Melot, Bob Trousdale And Gene Bruno At Left (John Ellis Photo). At Right, Chairman Barrett Presents Her With A Gift As Her Granddaughter, Lo Ann Ferrell, Looks On.



Committeemen Hilton Melot, Gene Bruno And J.P. Motley Visit Over Lunch



Chairman Barrett And Vice Chairman Capps Present Gifts To Dorothy And Hollis Bryan Of Beeville For Traveling The Farthest To Attend The Meeting



Committeeman J.P. Motley Learns What's On Hollis Bryan's Mind



Regional Office Directory

COLORADO

Penny Bishop

90 Meade Lane
Englewood, CO 80110
Local (303) 761-7021
FAX (303) 761-1660
Toll-Free (800) 531-1140

SOUTH TEXAS

Lu Ellis

26231 Huffsmith-Conroe Rd.
Magnolia, TX 77355
Local (281) 356-7957
Toll-Free (800) 272-7957

NORTHERN CALIFORNIA

Jennifer J. Porter

5033 Vannoy Ave.
Castro Valley, CA 94546
Local (510) 886-4195
Toll-Free (800) 874-8585

OREGON/IDAHO

Roscoe "Rocky" Baptiste

Box 346, 525 Ivy Ave.
Gervais, OR 97026
Local (503) 792-3744
FAX (503) 792-3744
Toll-Free (800) 522-3744

SOUTHERN CALIFORNIA

Jeremy Bertrand Finch

250 Wigmore Drive
Pasadena, CA 91105
Local (626) 403-0930
FAX (800) 432-2008

NORTH TEXAS

Marjorie Hobdy

3132 Kathy Lane
Irving, TX 75060
Local (972) 790-3075
Toll-Free (800) 742-3075

SOUTHWEST

Philonise Williams

20415 N. 29th St.
Phoenix, AZ 85024
Local (602) 569-3073
FAX (602) 569-6935
Toll-Free (800) 452-8966

MIDWEST

Maryann Bell

12516 Askew Dr.
Grandview, MO 64030
Local (816) 761-2333
Toll-Free (800) 325-6639

REGIONAL REPORTS

Northern California

Bozho,

It's been a busy, productive month. With a few days of sunshine, my spirits perked up and I felt more motivated. I hope you are being smitten with Spring's beauty in between the showers, too.

Last weekend, I attended the 13th annual California Indian Conference held at the San Francisco State University campus. I heard many good speakers, good storytellers, good songs. I learned more about the Gold Rush days and how little of the truth has reached our schools; indeed, I learned a lot more than I ever did in my school about this subject. My knowledge of what is going on now with not only our brothers and sisters here in California, but also with the ecology of the area is much enlightened.

There are many things going on with regard to helping to heal our Grandmother Earth. We need to be aware and more involved with this endeavor. I will have some of this information available at our Regional Meeting April 18th. I have available a list of well researched resources for children, on or by California Indians, published over the past few

years. They are written for children at a 4th grade level. Please call me if you would like a copy of the list and/or can share it with teachers in your area.

Our Regional Meeting will be occurring soon after you receive this month's HowNiKan, hopefully. Please call, write, email, or fax your reservation to me and join in a very special time. Again, the meeting is being held at the Aahmes Event Center, at 170 Lindbergh Avenue, Livermore, CA. Registration starts at 9 a.m. We have some wonderful things planned. Bring the family and join in!

Here are some pow-wow dates for your calendar:

MAY

00 — (Month okay, date not set) Spring P.W., Univ. of Nev./Reno campus. Reno, NV (702) 677-8135.
01-03 — De Anza College P.W., on campus, 21250 Stevens Ck. Blvd., Cupertino. (408) 864-5448 or (408) 864-8356.
08-10 — 27th Annual Stanford P.W., campus, Stanford, CA (415) 723-4078 or (415) 725-6944
16 — 17th Annual Yuba-Sutter P.W. Yuba College campus, 2088 N.

Beale Rd., Marysville, CA (530) 749-6196
16 — Honoring Our Native Amer. Veterans Potluck & Social P.W., Yerington Tribal Gym, 171 Campbell Ln. (9 mi. N. of Yerington), (702) 463-2350 Eve.

16-17 — 25th Annual CSUSF P.W., CSU San Francisco Gym, 19th & Holloway, S.F. (415) 338-1929.

22-24 — 13th Annual P.W., "Red Road to Sobriety", Casa De Fruita RV Park, Hwy 152 East of Gilroy (Reservations 800-548-3813) (480) 426-8211 or (408) 768-7042.

30-31 — Paradise P.W., Gold Nugget Museum, 502 Pearson Rd., Paradise. (530) 873-3233 or (530) 872-8722.

JUNE

16-22 — 12th Annual Youth and Elders Gathering Summer Encampment, DQ University, Davis, CA (916) 758-0470.

19-21 — 17th Annual Father's Day P.W., Stewart Indian School, 5366 Snyder Ave., Carson City, NV (702) 882-1808 or (702) 882-1802

Please be well and content. I hope to see you all at our meeting April 18th!

— Jennifer Porter

Washington/Oregon/Idaho

Bozho Ni Kan;

Ni Je Na? I'm doing well but after helping the Chemawa Indian School children celebrate their 118th birthday with a wonderful pow-wow, I have decided I'm older than I realized. So from now on I just may receive the flags instead of carrying them into the arena.

It was good to see old friends and fellow Nishnabe again. It is always a delight to see the pow-wows that the boys and girls at Chemawa put on each year. This is our children who in the future will carry on our traditions. Chemawa Indian School is a boarding school in Salem, Oregon for all Indian and Alaskan children and it runs through high school age. It is one of the oldest Indian schools still in use in the United States.

It was a privilege to attend and help them celebrate this 118th birthday. And it is never unusual to have someone tap me on the shoulder and tell me they too are Potawatomi.

A recent statement from Hamilton Construction Company said they have an ODOT contract to reconstruct five miles of Highway 20 near the summit of the coast range near Eddyville, Oregon. The project is approximately 23 miles west of Philomath and 25 miles east of Newport. It includes 10 bridges and several other structures. Qualified employees from a variety of back-

grounds are needed. Hamilton is seeking a combination operator/truck driver. The project duration is three years with probable winter shut-downs. The pay scale will be \$22.88 per hour with fringe that pays for health insurance and pension. Applicants should apply immediately in person at Hamilton Construction Co. 24708 Hwy 20, Eddyville, Oregon or call (541) 875-4060.

That's about all the work news I have had here lately, but with good weather just around the corner, some more should be coming up.

I should remind everyone again that our annual Regional meeting will be held May 9 in Lincoln City at the Shilo Inn. When I send out the letter to each of you, I will enclose some directions and phone numbers for hotels and state parks. I hope you are all working on your art projects to enter into our art contest. I have some good (impartial) judges coming to judge for us.

WASHINGTON! You are included in the meeting this year also. Please plan on coming and bringing your art also.

We are still working on our own directory of tribal member entrepreneurs. (I had to look that up. Maxine says that means if you have your own business). Send in your name and address or give me a call on the phone. If I don't answer, leave your number; I

will call you back. When we get enough, we will put the directory together.

This month:
VALUABLE RESOURCES, INC
Lisa Marie Thayer (Potawatomi)
8410-C SW Curry Drive-Wilsonville,
Oregon 97070
(503) 694-2799 Fax 694-6889

More news next month. Keep working on that language! My great-grandson (three years old) calls his grandmother Nokmus (calls me PaPa).

Ba ma mine and megwich,

— Rocky Baptiste

Don't Forget!
HowNiKan
Deadline Is
The 5th Of
The Month!

REGIONAL REPORTS

Colorado

Things are beginning to stir here in Denver. I see green shoots through the snow. The Indian Community's starting to buzz with the anticipation of Denver March Pow-Wow, which is March 20-21-22. Sewing machines are singing late into the night, bells and feathers are being attached, moccasins are being broken in. New steps are being practiced. Folks are busy putting the finishing touches on new dance regalia. If you have never been to Denver March, it's a sight to behold, a real treat for everyone. Hope to see you there this year.

My son John has started taking lessons with a drum group. We belong to Kateri Catholic Indian Parish. Our pastor, Fr. John O'Connel arranged for us to have our own drum. The purpose is for men in our community to mentor teenage boys and young men, teaching them to sing the old songs along with proper drum etiquette. Drum class is also a family gathering. The women and girls help each other with various sewing, beading, etc. projects. The kids practice their dance steps. We know that when we keep our children busy with good healthy activities, we are helping them to become responsible productive adults.

The Miss Indian Colorado Pageant will be held June 26 at the Denver Art Museum. The mission of the Miss Indian Colorado Committee is to sponsor two titles to consist of Miss Indian Colorado and Junior Miss Indian Colorado. The Committee will select two young women from the State of Colorado annually. The Committee

seeks young women who will represent the Colorado Native American community in an appropriate and positive manner at national, state and local events. The Senior and Junior Miss Indian Colorado princesses shall consistently present themselves in a poised, articulate, informed and cordial manner so as to accurately reflect the Native American community of Colorado. Inquiries and application requests may be obtained by contacting Pauline Echohawk, 303-823-5547. Applications must be submitted by May 15.

It was my pleasure to have Susan Campbell, former Washington tribal representative, to visit in February. My sister Nell Cottrell, who lives in Canon City, Colorado, John and I enjoyed showing her some of the beautiful Colorado scenery. While Susan was here she and I shared beadwork and ribbonwork, styles, patterns, and exchanged lots of new ideas. Denver has some excellent genealogy resources, so we enjoyed doing research and sharing information. We visited a couple of the local museums, and enjoyed their Native American exhibits. Susan, John and I also enjoyed a brief fun visit with the new Archbishop of Denver, Charles J. Chaput, Prairie Band Potawatomi. We were busy from daylight to dark, what fun we had, and we both look forward to our next visit.

I am anxiously waiting for spring, good health, sunshine and all of the summer activities.

Until next time,

— Penny Bishop

North Texas

The first day of Spring was March 20th and we are finally having winter. March came in like a lion and we were planning for it to go out like a lamb. Right now, it looks like it will go out kicking and screaming. It is cold!

I went to the Regional Meeting in Houston on March 7th and found it to be very informative. Lu Ellis had some interesting speakers from Houston and she even had an entry in the art competition. Our chairman and the Business Committee were there and had lots of news about the developments in the tribe and plans for the future.

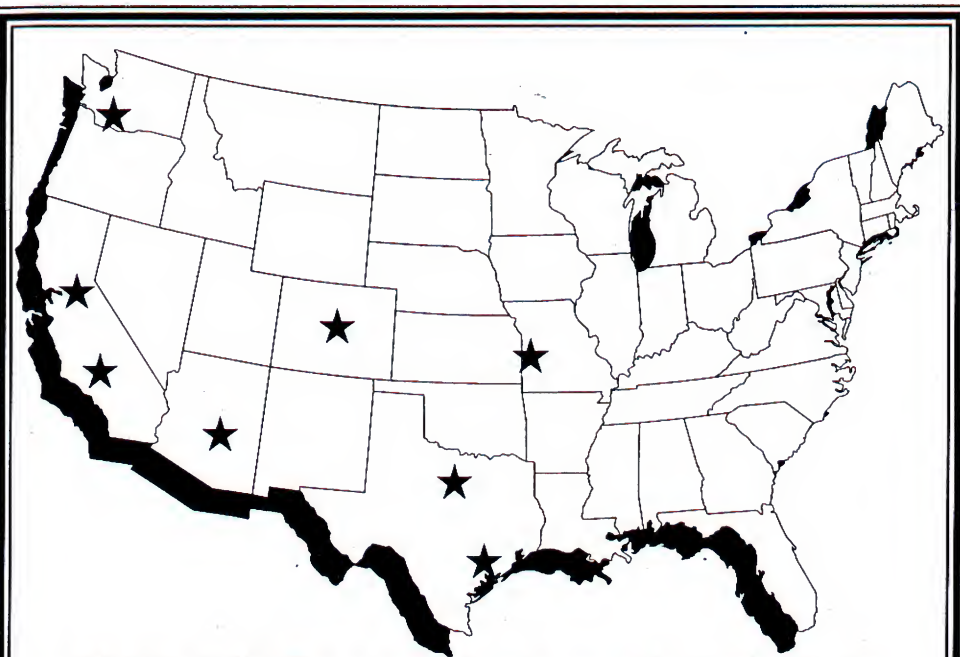
My granddaughter, Amanda Fay Lewis, made the trip with me and she especially enjoyed the book that Linda Capps read which Lu Ellis had written. After the meeting, Amanda and I went to the Galleria to look around. Figured out that when I first went there, it was 25 years ago, therefore it was not as spectacular as I remembered, so we went to Old Navy which was more our

speed price wise. Amanda thought her grandmother spent a lot of time stopping and asking for directions. At least I ask for directions. The souvenir postcard that Amanda brought was two views of the freeway interchanges, day and night. Very appropriate.

The Northern Texas Regional Meeting will be April 25, 10 a.m. to 3 p.m., at the Dallas Fort Worth Airport Marriott, the same location we had in 1995. It's very easy to get there from all directions and I look forward to seeing you. The report from Shawnee was exciting and I think you will enjoy hearing what is going on. Come and join us. Lots of new things.

I would like to hear from you if you will be able to help with registration and other tasks at the meeting. The help I had last year was certainly appreciated. Remember, April 25, 1998 — be sure and come to your regional meeting.

— Marj Hobdy



1997-98 Regional Council Schedule

Denver	Nov. 1, 1997
Phoenix	Jan. 17, 1998
Southern California	Feb. 21, 1998
Houston	March 7, 1998
Northern California	April 18, 1998
Dallas	April 25, 1998
Seattle/Portland	May 9, 1998
Kansas City	May 30, 1998

South Texas

Ahau Bosh, mine' nikanes,

This morning a member of the Native American Resource Center called me, asking if there were any Potawatomi children in our area in need of tutoring, or other assistance to stay in school. This organization is in its formative stages, I am told, and shall be accessible for those young people who may be in need of encouragement. The object being to prevent drop-outs from occurring in the Native community if possible. If you would like more information about this organization, call Jonathan Hook, at (281) 599-0657.

No winter. Well, hardly any. We never did have a hard freeze out here in these woods, the peaches are as big as marbles now, the winter rye got about a foot tall, and everything is in need of mowing. All those "bugs" are still walking around out here. I think we are going to have to watch out for the mosquitoes, and all their assorted "buddies" this spring and summer. Get your lotion/spray handy!

It has been a real pleasure to hear from those of you who have called to RSVP for the Council Meeting. Maybe if we are able to gather on a more regular basis for a little language study group, we shall really get to know each other better. Not that I am a speaker/teacher, by any means, but I am trying to learn. If you would try with me, and we could "practice" speaking together, it sure

would help!

Did I tell you we shall have a new baby in our family this month? Our oldest granddaughter and her husband shall present us with their second child very soon. Maybe this week. Well, yes, I am getting old, okay? But age is a state of mind, sort of "liking what you have," instead of "having what you like," if that makes any sense to you.

These babies are really special. They shall be the carriers of our Traditions, Culture, and Language. All that we as Bode'wadmi "Neshnabs" are. IF we preserve it for them. IF we give it to them. If we care enough to provide that anchor, that education. The responsibility is on our shoulders now, not our Ancestors, not our "Leaders," OURS. We have to want this, we have to learn; we have to give it to the little ones. At home, in these little groups I speak of, and on regular basis, not just at Pow-Wow, not just at Feast times, although all these things are equally important, as Tribal tradition.

It would have been easier if it had not been taken from us, in the missionary schools, long ago. But it is not impossible. It is just hard. We must.

Look at your Path. These little ones follow in your footsteps, and mine. It is an awesome responsibility.

Take good care of each other.
Bama pi,

— Lu Ellis

TRIBAL TRACTS

65 tribal members awarded BIA spring scholarships

Sixty-five Citizen Potawatomi Nation tribal members qualified for a total of \$32,450 in education assistance in spring semester scholarship grants.

Qualifications for the BIA Grant are as follows: the student must be enrolled with the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, be working toward his Bachelors Degree, carry at least 12 credit hours, and maintain a "C" average. The grants are awarded on a first-come, first-served basis. Students are advised to apply for all other financial resources, too.

The amount provided to each student is determined according to financial need. The application deadline is June 1, 1998 for the Fall 1998/Spring 1999 academic year.

KAREN ANDERSON	\$600	EASTERN NEW MEXICO UNIVERSITY
ALFRED BLEVINS, III	\$600	UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL OKLAHOMA
DOUGLAS BRINSON	\$500	EAST CENTRAL UNIVERSITY
JEFFERY BUTLER	\$500	CAMERON UNIVERSITY
JUSTIN COVALT	\$400	UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL OKLAHOMA
MERIDETH COX	\$700	UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA
KHARA CRISWEL	\$500	UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA
JESSICA DEADWILEY	\$400	ST. GREGORY'S UNIVERSITY
CODY DIKEMAN	\$500	WICHITA STATE UNIVERSITY
BARBARA EDGAR	\$600	CALIFORNIA STATE UNIVERSITY
MERIDETH EVERETT	\$400	OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY
BECKY GARRETT	\$400	UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL OKLAHOMA
HEATHER GARNER	\$500	MISSOURI SOUTHERN STATE COLLEGE

DENNIS GREENFIELD	\$450	UNIVERSITY OF NEVADA
CRYSTAL HALE	\$600	SOUTHWESTERN OKLA. STATE UN.
BRIAN HANCOCK	\$500	UNIVERSITY OF KANSAS
JAY HASKELL	\$600	VITERBO COLLEGE
JENNIFER HASKELL	\$500	VITERBO COLLEGE
GEOFFREY HAXTON	\$500	HILLSDALE FREWILL BAPTIST COLLEGE

KYLE HEY	\$400	CARL ALBERT STATE COLLEGE
CHRISTOPHER HIGBEE	\$500	WEATHERFORD COLLEGE
MISTI HOFFMAN	\$400	SOUTHWESTERN OKLA. STATE UN.
CRYSTAL HOLIDAY	\$500	SAN JUAN COLLEGE
SARAH HOPP	\$700	RHODES COLLEGE
ANGELA HUFFMAN	\$500	SOUTHWEST MISSOURI STATE UN.
ANNA JOHNSON	\$700	UNIVERSITY OF OREGON
MATTHEW KELL	\$500	UNIVERSITY OF LAVERNE
TERRY LANE	\$400	SEMINOLE STATE COLLEGE
JESSICA LANTAGNE	\$400	ROSE STATE COLLEGE
JOYCE LEWIS	\$700	LE MOYNE COLLEGE
KRISTI MACON	\$500	SOUTHWEST TEXAS STATE UN.
CARRIE MALONE	\$400	EAST CENTRAL OKLAHOMA UN.SITY
NICHOLAS MALONE	\$400	SEMINOLE STATE COLLEGE
THOMAS MALONE	\$500	FORT LEWIS COLLEGE
ANDREW MANNING	\$400	OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY
JOHANNA MANNING	\$700	CREIGHTON UNIVERSITY
BRANDY NOEL	\$600	UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL OKLAHOMA
MICHELLE OSBURN	\$400	MISSISSIPPI STATE UNIVERSITY
MICHELLE PEARL	\$400	KANSAS STATE UNIVERSITY
BRADLEY PELTIER	\$600	UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA
JAYME PORTER	\$400	OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY
BRANDON RENNIE	\$400	FORT LEWIS COLLEGE
ERICA RHODD	\$600	OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY
JOSHUA ROMAN	\$500	UNIVERSITY OF MEMPHIS
MELISSA ROMAN	\$500	MIDDLE TENNESSEE STATE UN.
KIMBERLY ROMINES	\$500	EAST CENTRAL UNIVERSITY
KELI SAVORY	\$400	WESTERN OKLAHOMA STATE UN.
APRIL SHERFELD	\$600	INDIANA UNIVERSITY
AMBER SHIREY	\$400	UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL OKLAHOMA
DOROTHY SIMMONS	\$700	UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA
TIKI SISSELL	\$400	DALLAS BAPTIST UNIVERSITY
SHOSHANNA SLOTZKIN	\$700	SOUTHERN OREGON ST. UNIVERSITY
GEOFFREY STALLINGS	\$600	OKLAHOMA CITY UNIVERSITY
MARK STALLINGS	\$400	OKLAHOMA STATE UNIVERSITY
DALE SWEETEN	\$400	SOUTHWESTERN OKLA. STATE UN.
ECHO TESCIE	\$500	UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA
LEISA URRUTIA	\$600	GEORGE MASON UNIVERSITY
BRIAN WALKER	\$500	SOUTHWEST TEXAS STATE UN.
KERRY WANO	\$600	UNIVERSITY OF OKLAHOMA
LORRIE WERNER	\$500	METROPOLITAN STATE COLLEGE OF DENVER

ANNETTA WHEELER	\$600	UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL OKLAHOMA
KIMBERLY WILLIAMS	\$400	EAST CENTRAL OKLAHOMA UN.
MELISSA WILSON	\$400	ST. GREGORY'S UNIVERSITY
TIFFANY WRIGHT	\$400	EAST CENTRAL OKLAHOMA UN.
STANLEY WILLIAMS	\$400	UNIVERSITY OF CENTRAL OKLAHOMA

If you wish to obtain a scholarship application or if you have questions concerning the scholarship program write to or call Ed Herndon, Director, or Patsy Cooper, Administrative Assistant, at: 1601 South Gordon Cooper Drive, Shawnee, OK 74801 or 405-275-5269 or 800-880-9880.



Worker assembles new doated computer workstations

Donation helps Employment & Training upgrade computer training facilities

Networking remains a vitally important business skill, as evidenced in the recent acquisition, at almost no cost, of the workstations for the Citizen Potawatomi Nation's Employment Training Program Computer Lab.

Margaret Zientek, the Program's Administrative Assistant, used connections from a past job to learn about the workstations and obtain the donation.

Zientek describes it like this: "Through a friend at a previous place of employment, I received a tip regarding computer stations on the used market. When Daniel Bryant, Director of Administration for Dollar RentACar Systems, and I talked, he had already heard of our need for computer stations."

Zientek added, "I described the objectives of our computer learning lab for Daniel. After learning of them, he immediately and eagerly offered to 'give' us the units. He was pleased with the opportunity to assist our tribe's initiatives."

For no more than the reimbursement cost that a re-sale company had already incurred in removing and relocating them, plus installation costs, the employment and training program has 16 computer workstations.

Zientek said, "The used



Instructor Ron Factor works with Brandi Johnson at one of donated computer workstations.

market price that Facility Resources, Inc., had sold some of these workstations for was \$125-to-\$135 per unit. We obtained the same units for less than \$30 each."

Instructor Ron Factor offers GED courses and helps teach Windows applications for such Microsoft office programs as Word, Excel, and Access.

Tulsa-based Dollar RentACar Reservation Center is currently undergoing renovations and will soon be opening a satellite center in Tahlequah, in conjunction with the Tahlequah Industrial Authority. Dollar, one of Tulsa's larger employers, actively supports small business and minority concerns

whenever possible.

"Tribal Chairman Rocky Barrett was so pleased by this opportunity to obtain the nearly-free workstations that he increased my initial request for 10 units to 16," said Zientek. "The six extra units are earmarked for the Language and Culture Program's use."

The computer lab assists employment and training program participants through computerized learning, enabling them to become self-sufficient. The nation also uses the computer lab to enhance and maximize employees' computer knowledge and skills. Finally, it is being made available for use by tribal members.

TRIBAL TRACTS

Voyager Summer Camp enrollment open to tribal children

Citizen Potawatomi children who will be heading into grades four, five, or six in the 1998-99 school year are invited to pre-enroll in an exciting, interactive four-week day camp. The day camp will begin on July 13 and will continue through August 7, which is one week before schools in the Shawnee area begin classes.

The camp will operate a half-day each weekday during those four weeks. Enrollment is limited.

Voyager Summer Camp will be a hands-on, activity-based learning experience. It is designed to help children learn complex concepts far ahead of their grade levels. The program is being offered through the Citizen

Potawatomi Nation's Community and Family Services Department.

The curriculum for the camp will be the award-winning *PRE-MED Science Comes to Life*. The Summer Voyagers will explore the wonders of the human body, visit a hospital, observe an operation, and meet the nurses and doctors who save lives every day. In addition, they will grow bacteria, set a broken (chicken) bone, discover the origins of disease, and determine how food is fuel.

The youngsters will also learn about the circulatory system, the nature of cells, how the brain works, and the name and role of each vital organ in the human body. They will perform surgery



on cow brains, tongues, and hearts with plastic picnic knives while wearing scrubs, surgical gloves, masks, and hats. They will cast "broken" arms. (Removal of the casts before the children leave the program for home is optional.)

Summer Voyagers will take a fascinating excursion into the realm of

wellness and preventive medicine. They will discover how they can remain healthy and will learn the treatments for various diseases.

PRE-MED is an extraordinary medical school experience for elementary-age children. It eliminates grading and classroom tension, replacing them with motivation and positive reinforcement.

Potawatomi parents interested in pre-enrollment should contact the lead teacher, Debbie Chesser, at the Community and Family Services telephone number, 405-275-3176 between 8:30 and 11:30 a.m. There will be no charge to participants for attending the four-week summer day camp.

New program would help elders deal with fears, abuse, health

Dear Friends,

A proposal for funding for a Citizen Potawatomi Nation Elders Abuse Prevention Information Referral Center and Hot Line has been submitted.

Can anyone remember being fearful of your home's being burglarized or having wondered just how safe your home is? I'll bet the majority of us can answer "Yes!" to that question.

There are plenty of honest business enterprises that deal with elders out of respect. However, there are always those who do not care whom they hurt, just as long as they get the cash.

Additionally, many of our seasoned Potawatomi citizens suffer from medical problems of various types.

Assurances from a friend, a referral program staff member, or a volunteer would be of tremendous help and could make a major difference in an emergency.

Recently, the use of a personal emergency response system has come to my attention. It might prove to be a valuable tool in filling a real need for our elders. This is an emergency device that is worn around the neck. This device can be programmed to contact a friend, neighbor, or relative. It could be set to contact the appropriate emergency service that has the patient's chart available to help in a time of need.

Eventually, the Elders Abuse Prevention Information and Referral Center will establish a buddy system for elders. Through this system, elders' home safety—such items as windows and door locks, etc.—will be checked.

This program would use a community referral book that will be updated on a continual basis, to provide assistance to



Tribal Chaplain Norman Kiker

our Native American elders. The Elders Abuse Prevention Information and Referral Program will have regular educational presentations concerning various situations in which the unscrupulous take advantage of seniors.

The program will attempt to inform our elders about their options for getting help. It will teach strategies for avoiding scams and fraudulent schemes.

I respectfully request that you fill in the *Elders Quality of Life Survey* form that appears in this edition of the *HowNiKan* and return it to: Norman Kiker, Chaplain, Citizen Potawatomi Nation, 1601 South Gordon Cooper Drive, Shawnee, OK 74801.

ELDERS QUALITY OF LIFE SURVEY

- Which community do you live in or closest to? _____
- Do you live alone? Yes _____ No _____
- Indicate in order of importance (1 being most important) the top five crime-related concerns in your area: _____ Fear of crime
_____ Burglary _____ Solicitors/vendors _____ Vandalism _____ Vacant/
abandoned house _____ Purse snatching _____ Animal problems
_____ Traffic concerns _____ Rape _____ Victimization _____ Fraud/
scams _____ Abuse/neglect _____ Assault _____ Residential bur-
glary _____ Murder
Other: _____
Comments: _____
- Would you be interested in participating in any of the following crime prevention programs? _____ Neighborhood Watch
_____ Home security survey _____ Personal safety skills classes.
Comments: _____
- Would you be interested in participating in a volunteer program to assist law enforcement? _____ Yes _____ No Please specify areas of interest: _____ Neighborhood watch _____ Office work _____ Reas-
surance visits _____ Victim assistance program _____ Home security
- Do you need assistance in: _____ Transportation/courier
_____ Shopping _____ Running errands
Other: _____

Optional information, helpful but not required: Age: _____ Sex: _____

Name: _____

Phone #: _____

Address: _____

Free garden seeds offered to Native American gardeners

To the Editor:

For the third year now, our little family "project" is offering FREE garden seeds. We are offering them in a quantity that will allow a family or individual to grow enough tasty fresh, chemical-free food to supply a good portion of their own home-grown groceries, plus enough to put up for the winter and to save seeds for next year.

We are NOT affiliated with any religious sect, political group, etc. We are simply Native American gardeners who feel strongly that no one in our extended family should go hungry, if there is a small plot of ground available to grow food.

Our seeds come to us in many ways; some are outdated, but very capable of producing food, donated by seed houses all over the country. Other seed is overrun; some is from just plain goodwill donations from the same sources. Some is grown and donated by folks who have received seed from us in the past. And, we grown a good portion, her in our two-acre garden.

Most of the seed is open-pollinated, which allows seed-saving. (Hybrid seed will not come true in the second generation.)

Anyone wishing seed only has to write to us. Please, help by telling how

big your garden plot will be and about any special likes and dislikes. Each box of seed is hand-chosen and packed by us. (New gardeners: please, ask us to do so and we'll enclose growing instructions and tips.)

We have been hungry and want you to eat well.

Anyone who CAN AFFORD to pay the postage on his packages can send \$3 or \$4. This really helps as we are far from wealthy and we're the only ones who pay the postage on these

packages...so we really appreciate your help.

The packages of seeds ARE HEAVY! (Please, no commercial growers, as we can not supply enough seeds for acres of plantings.) If you're broke, please ask for seeds anyway...we'll get 'em to you, some way!!

Gardening fosters self-reliance and pride of accomplishment. It brings re-contact with many tribal growing traditions. (We even try to send seed appropriate to tribal affiliations!)

Gardening is great exercise; it is FUN; it is contagious; and, it is spreading to friends and neighbors!

If you can help spread the word via tribal newsletter or other means, we would appreciate it a lot!

Sincerely,
Bob & Jackie Clay
Native Garden Project
P.O. Box 488
Gladstone, New Mexico
505-485-2553 or 505-485-2467

Haskell Spring Pow-Wow set May 8-10

The annual Haskell Indian Nations University Spring Pow-Wow will be held May 8-10 in the Haskell Stadium. The powwow is now in its 28th year and attracts over 15,000 people annually. Dancers and singers from all across the United States and Canada participate each year.

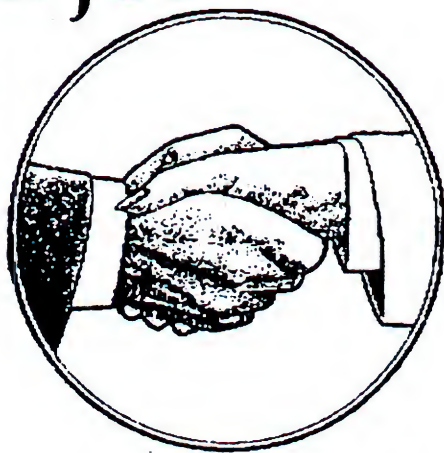
Head staff for this year's pow-wow consists of HINU students and alumni. The head staff includes the following: Mick Escamea, head man

dancer, Chelsea Dawes-Anglin, head lady dancer; Dale Old Horn and Hammon Motah, master of ceremonies; Joe Bointy and Mike One Star, Arena Directors; Mandaree, host northern drum; and Yel-lowhammer, host southern drum. Another attraction to the powwow is the dance competition. This year there is over \$30,000 available in prize money, with contests in all categories.

In addition, Haskell Indian Nations

University will be holding its Spring Commencement on Friday, May 8, beginning at 10 a.m. The graduation ceremony will kick off a fun filled weekend of events and activities. Some activities include a colorful parade in downtown Lawrence, men's fastpitch softball tournament, and a golf scramble. For more information about the powwow, contact Darrell Flyingman at (785) 749-8485.

Being the kind of bank
you need is not an
easy job...
But it's a job
we like
a lot.



We've done our best to staff our bank with trained, experienced people...people you can rely on to give you their best. We've tried to offer you all the banking services you'll need or want, with professionalism, accuracy and courtesy. We hope we've always given you the impression that you're great people to work for, because *you are*.

Your business is appreciated!

If you're not part of our bank family, come see us. We'll do our best to make you glad you did.



FIRST NATIONAL BANK
AND TRUST CO.

FIRST NATIONAL BANK and TRUST CO.

FIRST TELÉCHECK: Our New Automated Banking Information 878-9977 • 24 Hours a Day, 7 Days a Week
SAME DAY POSTING. No early cut off times. Any deposit prior to 6 p.m. will be posted to your account the same day.

130 E. MacArthur, Shawnee, OK 74801 • (405) 275-8830

Member
FDIC



A HowNiKan Interview

Rep. Ernest Istook: Is it sovereignty or 'tax evasion?'

When you ask Native American leaders to name the elected federal officials who have waged the toughest battles against tribal sovereignty the past three years, two names are heard most frequently. They are Sen. Slade Gorton (Rep.-WA) and Rep. Ernest Istook (Rep.-Warr Acres, OK).

It is widely believed that Sen. Gorton is motivated largely by numerous legal defeats by Native Americans from the Upper Northwest on important fishing rights and other cases while he was Attorney General of Washington state.

To help Citizen Potawatomi Nation members and our other readers understand Congressman Istook's motivation, the *HowNiKan* recently conducted a half-hour interview with him.

For the third consecutive year, Rep. Istook is sponsoring legislation that would require tribal governments to agree to collect and remit city, county, and state taxes on transactions on land to be placed into trust on a discretionary basis.

Rep. Istook: There has been, for many years, a major concern about economic development for Indian tribes, and how do we approach that best. A lot of the things that are done today for economic development of the tribes are not based upon the treaties that were signed long ago between the U.S. government and the tribes. Instead, they are based on acts of Congress, some of them going back to the 1930's, some of them in more recent years.

The difficulty, of course, comes when a system has been created that is very distinct from the way that free enterprise operates in the rest of the country. I'm talking about a system where, to many tribes, they have become dependent on government grants and dependent upon utilizing tax advantages rather than their business knowledge or their business ability, or their hard work.

That is creating a lot of disparity between their (tribal governments') businesses and private businesses. Frankly, it's gotten to the point where it's become a threat to the tax base of states and to the ability of states to continue to provide roads, quality education, public safety, and other services.

HowNiKan: For example, in Oklahoma, we are not aware of any tribally-owned fuel station that is not collecting its own tribal tax, if it is not charging the Oklahoma tax on retail fuel purchases. (That eliminates price advantages for tribal stations.)

Rep. Istook: There, you are talking about an owner putting something more into their pocket but labeling it a tax.

HowNiKan: Most of those (tribal) taxes are not going into the owners' pockets. A lot of it does go into social services for tribal members.

Rep. Istook: It doesn't matter whether the owner chooses to plow the profits back into making the business nicer, therefore more attractive to more customers, or whether he chooses to take it out in pure profit. The point is that I, as an owner, have made the determination of how to use that money. For everyone else that

operates a business, who is required to collect the taxes for the state, that person is required to turn it over to the state government. It goes to roads, bridges, highways, and many other public purposes.

The point is: Should we have a different way in which businesses operate based upon whether you are a member of a particular group of persons. If we say that, because of your ancestry or because of your race, you do not have to live under the same laws as everyone else, then we've created some fundamental questions of whether we still have equal protection of the laws in the United States of America.

HowNiKan: Let's get to an understanding of what you believe tribal government sovereignty to be. As it is understood in Indian Country, sovereignty is based on U.S. government recognition of the pre-existing sovereign status of tribal governments, agreed to in dozens of treaties, and upheld in numerous U.S. Supreme Court decisions.

Rep. Istook: I don't think the U.S. Supreme Court is going to agree with your definitions. When you come, for example, to the doctrine of tribal sovereign immunity, I quote from the U.S. Supreme Court decision in 1991 in the case *Oklahoma Tax Commission v. Potawatomi*: Congress has always been at liberty to dispense with such immunity, or to limit it.

The reason that tribes have different

tax treatment, and it's not the same (reason) as some people think it is, is because of acts of Congress. It is not something that comes out of treaty obligations (emphasis added).

When it comes to the doctrines of tribal sovereignty or sovereign immunity, the Supreme Court has made clear in its decisions that that is not something that comes out of treaties. Instead, that is something that comes out of acts of Congress.

The laws regarding taxation are to permit tribes not to have to collect state taxes on sales that they may make to members of the tribe. But, when they're engaged in transactions with people who are not a member of that tribe, they have the same legal obligation as other people to pay the appropriate tax on that transaction.

The United States Supreme Court has ruled very clearly that, when those taxes are not paid, it is tax evasion (emphasis added). It is people evading a tax, which they have a lawful obligation to pay.

(Editor's note: In response to Rep. Istook's assertions, it is wise to examine the history of the law regarding sovereignty, as it evolved through federal legislative enactments and U.S. Supreme court decisions.)

On January 15, 1773, before existence of the United States, the Privy Council, the English equivalent of the U.S. Su-

preme Court, held in *Mohegan Indians v. Connecticut* that the Indians are a separate and distinct people (from the colonists) with a policy of their own.

The *Mohegan* case summarily established that: (1) Indian tribes are sovereign nations, (2) Indian tribes owned their own land, and (3) Indian land could only be obtained by fair and honest purchases from the Indians.

In 1831, in *Cherokee Nation v. Georgia*, the U.S. Supreme Court upheld tribal governments' sovereign nature. Writing for the majority, Chief Justice John Marshall said, "...the Indians are acknowledged to have an unquestionable and, heretofore, unquestioned right to the land they occupy and that right shall be extinguished by a voluntary cession to our government."

In *Worcester v. Georgia* in 1832, the Supreme Court reinforced the *Cherokee Nation* ruling. The majority opinion stated that the Treaty of Hopewell and other federal government acts "manifestly consider the several Indian nations as distinct political communities, having territorial boundaries, within which their authority is exclusive, and having a right to all the lands within those boundaries, which is not only acknowledged by but guaranteed by the United States.")

Gorton bill would deny federal benefits to tribes

A drive to strip sovereign Native American nations of their immunity from lawsuits and to force them to collect and remit local taxes for transactions on trust land remains alive in the U.S. Congress.

The U.S. Senate Indian Affairs Committee, chaired by Sen. Ben Nighthorse Campbell (Rep.-CO), held the first of three hearings on sovereignty issues on March 11.

Legislation sponsored by Sen. Slade Gorton (Rep.-WA.), would deny federal benefits to tribes unless the tribes permit a variety of lawsuits to be brought against them. These would include actions by states to force the collection of taxes and suits by people who think they've been harmed by tribal governments or tribal businesses.

In the House, Rep. Ray LaHood (Rep.-IL) is proposing to bar tribes from getting federal highway funds unless they collect fuel taxes from non-Indians.

Defeating the legislation is the top congressional priority for tribes this year. Gorton withdrew a similar measure last fall after a furious lobbying effort by tribes, who have the Clinton administration's backing.

Losing immunity would erode the authority of tribes, make it impossible for them to regulate health and safety, and potentially force them into bankruptcy to pay court awards, they argue. "We'll be out there fighting you,"



Philip Martin, Chief of the Mississippi Choctaws, told Sen. Gorton. "We value our right to self-determination."

Testifying at the sovereignty hearing, Davis Love, owner of Oklahoma City-based Love's Country Stores, claimed that one of his truck stops lost \$5,000 in 1995. Love further claimed that, had that store been owned by one of the Native American tribes with whom he competes, his business would have turned a profit of nearly \$1 million.

Tribes have refused in many states to collect state excise taxes from non-Indian customers. Love told Indian Affairs Committee members that that gives tribally-owned businesses an advantage over non-Indian competitors. "It was impossible for

our company to compete directly with Native American stations," he said.

Immunity from lawsuits gives tribes "the right to wrong other people," said Sen. Gorton, a member of the Senate committee. "My bill would ask no more and no less than that Indian tribes be subjected to the same kind of responsibility that others are," he said.

Critics say the lawsuit immunity prevents states from getting tax revenue from tribes without making significant concessions to them and also allows tribes to violate the rights of both Indians and non-Indians on their reservations.

Many tribes have reached agreements with states to remit the taxes, but the deals frequently require states to share the revenue. A 1996 deal between Oklahoma and nine of its 39 tribes entitles participating tribes to a share of all state fuel taxes.

The Supreme Court has ruled that tribes must collect state taxes from non-Indian customers, but state officials say there is no way for them to enforce that. Sales to tribal members are exempt from state taxes.

Estimates of the lost tax revenue vary widely from state to state. Rep. Ernest Istook (Rep.-OK) said, "Michigan, for example, loses an estimated \$103 million a year in cigarette, fuel and general taxes. Washington state estimates it loses \$64 million a year in taxes on cigarettes."



IHS Director Dr. Michael Trujillo And Chairman Barrett (5th and 6th From Left) Pose With Citizen Potawatomi And Other IHS Officials



Dr. Trujillo (Left) And An IHS Official Listen As Chairman Barrett Explains The Tribal Health Care Program

IHS director praises tribe for health facilities, planning

By MICHAEL DODSON

CPN DIRECTOR OF PUBLIC INFORMATION

Dr. Michael Trujillo, Director of the Indian Health Service, received a guided tour of the new Citizen Potawatomi Nation administrative offices and its Nishnabe Clinic as he visited Oklahoma on March. He left very impressed.

Dr. Trujillo has made it a policy to maximize his time spent in IHS' own far-flung facilities and in tribal facilities made possible by IHS dollars. "I try and do as many field visits as possible, I try to get out quite frequently. I'm out, close to half of my time, in the field," Trujillo told the *HowNiKan*.

Speaking of the Nishnabe Clinic, Dr. Trujillo said, "I think it is a very excellent example of what a tribe and the tribal initiative and continuity of leadership can really bring to a Nation, for both the infrastructure and the services provided."

He added, "I think the continuity of leadership cer-

tainly has a great deal to do with the accomplishments that have been attained there."

Trujillo explained that, on these field visits, he looks at much more than a tribe's health care initiatives. "I am very interested about what the tribes are doing in the areas of economic development, education, development of social services, court system and law enforcement program sophistication."

The IHS top man says that these factors interact to determine how well a tribe is able to integrate a number of factors that will strengthen its health care delivery system.

With regard to those systems within the Citizen Potawatomi Nation, Dr. Trujillo said, "I thought they are very well done, very well thought out."

He was very impressed by the decision to place both the Elders' Program and the ChildCare Program in the new administration building.

"The development of the

data system, that is essential, the economic enterprises, and the collaboration that goes on among those divisions show the forethought of the Nation and the tribal leaders."

Turning to a national view, Dr. Trujillo told the *HowNiKan* that two factors are straining the Indian Health Service's ability to serve all its constituents well. "The difficulty that we are seeing, throughout the nation, is the rising population that is coming into IHS and tribal facilities for services. Inflation is certainly affecting IHS and health care nationwide."

Congress is not funding Native Americans' health care needs adequately, according to Dr. Trujillo. "We're facing a budget that doesn't seem to be reflective of the needs of Indian Country."

The IHS could use grassroots and tribal leader support in making its case for more money. "What I believe is

everyone who is interested in health care for Indian people should be knowledgeable of the budget, the budgetary process, and what effect they might be having on health care."

The IHS is four to five years deep into its Tribal Self-Governance demonstration program, featuring pilot projects. Trujillo explained, "This is a mechanism for a negotiated process through which the Indian Health Service and the tribal government identify needs and resources," and what the tribe wants to do on both ends of that equation.

The self-governance initiative gives a tribe "a lot of flexibility to use its IHS funds, if they stay within the health care arena," Dr. Trujillo said.

IHS and tribal governments are still refining "what needs to be done (within the self-governance concept) to define what federal responsibilities are, what tribal responsibilities are, what the resources might

be, how those resources might flow to tribes, what the level of oversight should be," Trujillo said.

The U.S. House of Representatives is beginning its consideration of legislation to make IHS self-governance initiative permanent. "I really see, within the next year, enactment of such legislation, a continued strengthening of that process, and a number of other tribal governments' deciding that is the avenue for them to get into to manage their health care programs."

Trujillo expects to see another 15 to 30 tribal governments opt for self-governance within the next year. That would bring the number in the program to between 50 and 70.

Summing up his feelings about his Citizen Potawatomi Nation visit, Dr. Trujillo said, "It was a fantastic trip. I was very much enlightened and I really enjoyed my time there."

CITIZEN POTAWATOMI NATION REQUEST FOR BALLOT • 1998 ELECTION

In order to comply with the 1998 Election Ordinance, please fill out this form and return to: Potawatomi Election Committee, P.O. Box 310, Tecumseh, OK 74873

NAME: _____ DATE OF BIRTH: _____

ADDRESS: _____

CITY, STATE & ZIP: _____

Under penalty of perjury, I hereby declare this to be my legal signature and Potawatomi Tribal Roll Number:

SIGNATURE: _____ TRIBAL ROLL #: _____

THIS FORM MUST BE IN THE HANDS OF THE ELECTION COMMITTEE BY JUNE 7, 1998

Filing time is here

Filing opened March 30 for the 1998 Citizen Potawatomi Nation election, set for June 27. Filing continued on March 31 and April 1.

On the ballot this year with the Vice Chairman and Secretary-Treasurer positions, said Election Committee secretary Esther Lowden. She said there is also a vacant Grievance Committee post, seat #3, to be filled for a one year term.

Both Linda Capps, incumbent vice chairman, and Gene Bruno, incumbent secretary-treasurer, have announced they will seek reelection to new four-year terms. Candidates for tribal office must be enrolled tribal members at least 21 years of age, never convicted of a felony, and living in Pottawatomie, Seminole, Pontotoc, McClain, Oklahoma, Lincoln, Cleveland or Okfuskee counties in Oklahoma.

Filing is during regular business hours at tribal headquarters, now located in the former Oak Crest Hospital building just east of the entertainment complex.

The independent Election Committee, made up of chairman Gary Bourbonnais, David Bourbonnais, Lowden, Harold Trousdale and Don Yott, is already accepting applications for absentee ballots. Those applications must be returned to the Election Committee by June 7 in order to vote by mail.